

How to Obtain these Services:

Physicians, dentists, nurses, school officials, welfare agencies and others whose attention is called to children up to sixteen years of age with cleft palate or cleft lip are requested to report such cases, through the family physician, if possible, to the Cleft Palate Section, State Department of Health, Harrisburg.

Authorization will be given for the child to be studied at one of the clinics. Do not apply directly to the clinic. Once admitted to the clinic the child will be given a complete examination by a team consisting of a surgeon, a pediatrician, dental specialists, a speech therapist, a psychologist, and if necessary a nose and throat specialist. A staff conference will be held . . . the key to the problem, which provides cooperation in thinking, cooperation in effort of all the combined specialists to formulate a plan of treatment. Families that can meet part of the expenses without hardship are asked to do so, but in no case will medical care be denied because of lack of funds.

REMEMBER:

1. Cleft lip or cleft palate is nothing of which to be ashamed.
2. It can be corrected in most cases.
3. A cleft lip or palate has no relation to the individual's I. Q.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Health
Division of Maternal and Child Health
Cleft Palate Section
P. O. Box 90
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Clinics approved by the Department of Health for the diagnosis and treatment of cleft lip and cleft palate are located at several convenient points in the State.

(Photographs furnished through the courtesy of the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic, Inc.)

**cleft
lip
and
cleft
palate**

PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF MATERNAL
AND CHILD HEALTH
CLEFT PALATE SECTION

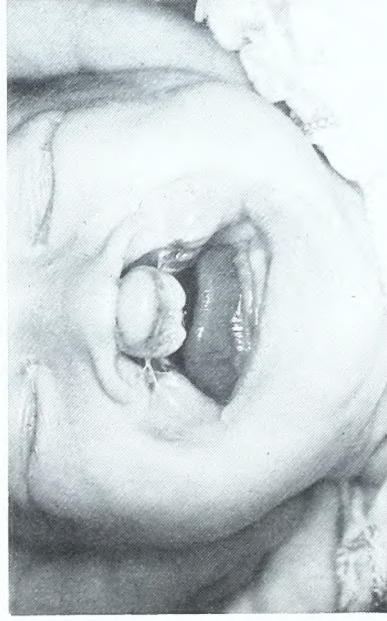
CLEFT LIP and CLEFT PALATE CAN BE CORRECTED!

What is Cleft Lip?



Note the picture of the baby. Before she was born the flesh that formed her upper lip failed to unite properly, forming a cleft lip. Sometimes this is called hare-lip.

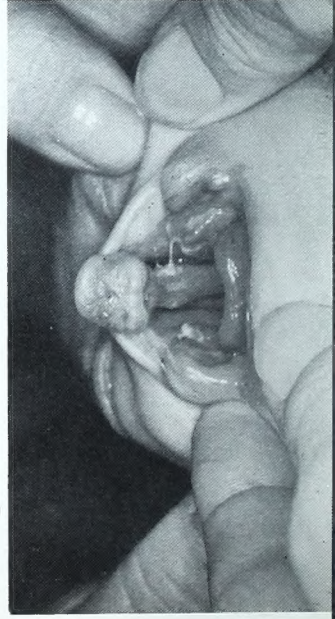
Sometimes one side only of the lip is involved, sometimes both sides are affected, as shown below.



What is Cleft Palate?

Just as the flesh of the lip failed to unite, the flesh of the roof of the mouth may not come together. The abnormal opening (or hole) in the roof of the mouth is called cleft palate.

Cleft palate is often associated with cleft lip, as shown below, but may occur without cleft lip.



The Problems it Causes

APPEARANCE:

An individual with a cleft lip is aware at an early age that she is not physically attractive because of her misshaped face. or irregular dental structure. Just think of the baby in the picture having to go through life with a face others stare at, a face she wouldn't even want to look at herself.

SPEECH:

Cleft palate causes a very serious speech defect because it prevents the proper production of sounds. The child realizes she can't be understood, that others laugh at her, so she shies away, becomes socially and emotionally stunted. She has difficulty in obtaining employment, may even become a drain on the community.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. About 1 child in every 750 is born with a cleft lip or cleft palate or both.
2. It is nothing of which to be ashamed. While there is probably an inherited tendency to this deformity in certain families, it is not the result of any disease.
3. There is no evidence that a child with cleft palate has a lower I.Q. than any other child.

The Corrective Measures



Plastic surgery, dental care, mental and speech training have worked modern miracles in helping persons with cleft lip and cleft palate to live normal lives. Sometimes as early as three weeks after an operation for cleft lip, it is difficult to believe that the patient is the same person. Surgery on the cleft lip should be performed at an early age—from six weeks to three months after birth, according to the general physical condition. Surgery on the cleft palate should be done, as a general rule, at a time early enough to forestall bad speech habits, sometimes as early as eighteen months, sometimes not for two or three years after birth. From this it will be understood that in case of cleft palate alone, with no lip involvement, no treatment of the cleft is begun during the first year.

It would be wonderful if closure of the palate by surgery sufficed in all cases, but this is true in only a certain proportion of cases, and indeed surgery may be useless where the cleft is wide. Here, it is evident that services other than surgery are required; they comprise dental rehabilitation including orthodontia (tooth straightening) and prosthesis (artificial appliances for replacing missing teeth and closure of clefts of the palate), and speech training.

It is obvious that this complete service is often beyond the means of families with limited incomes.

